

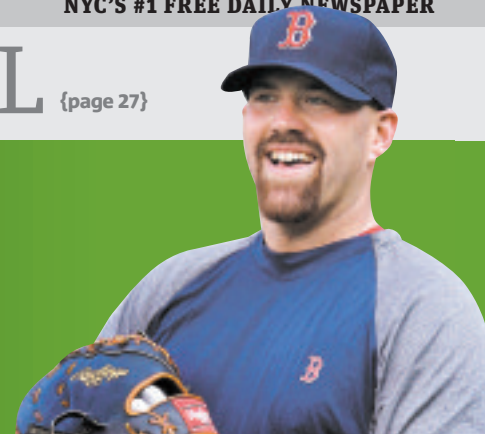
YANKEES SIGN YOUKILIS TO DEAL {page 27}

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NEW YORK
Wednesday, December 12, 2012



MILES DIXON/METRO

Second death on the tracks in two weeks

► Officials found a man dead in the tunnel near an L train station ► Death comes just one week after a man was crushed by a train in Manhattan {page 02}

Sandy. Benefit concert



MIKE BENIGNO/METRO

12.12.12

Yesterday was almost like a calm before the storm, as workers readied Madison Square Garden for the biggest concert the arena has ever seen. The Rolling Stones, Kanye West, Bruce Springsteen, the Who and more will play a benefit tonight for the victims of Hurricane Sandy. ● METRO

local

NYC takes record for longevity {page 06}

technology

Sleep-talking? This app records it! {page 20}

home

Upcycle for holiday decorations {page 30}

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1

In the news

Monserate sentenced to two years

NEW YORK. Former state Sen. Hiram Monserate was sentenced to 24 months in prison, the Department of Investigation announced yesterday. Monserate was sentenced for directing more than \$100,000 in funding through a non-profit to his Senate campaign. He pleaded guilty to fraud in May. "Hiram Monserate was undone by his greed," DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said. **METRO/AB**

In the news

**Cops search for rapist**

ELMHURST. Police are looking for a rape suspect. According to the NYPD, a man entered an Elmhurst residence through a bathroom window using a ladder Dec. 9 around 4 a.m. Once he was inside, he sexually assaulted the 24-year-old victim before fleeing, cops said. The man is described as male, black or Hispanic, 20 to 25, and 5 foot 8. **METRO/AB**

In the news

**US, New York sue tour bus operators**

NEW YORK. Two companies run an illegal monopoly in New York City's \$100 million market for hop-on, hop-off bus tours, driving up prices for tourists in the city, state and federal antitrust authorities said in a lawsuit filed yesterday. Twin America LLC, a joint venture of operators Coach USA Inc. and City Sights LLC, violates competition laws and should be dissolved, according to the suit filed in U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York. **REUTERS**

Woman shot right outside hospital

BROOKLYN. A woman was shot near a hospital yesterday morning. According to police, around 3:10 a.m., cops found a 32-year-old woman shot in the neck at the corner of Hegeman Avenue and East 98th Street, the rear side of Brookdale Hospital in Brooklyn. The woman, who police identified as Shalema Gaskin, 32, was taken into the hospital, where she was pronounced dead. **METRO/AB**

Man arrested for stabbing neighbor

HARLEM. Cops arrested a man for stabbing another to death after cops found the victim stabbed in the neck. According to police, on Monday shortly before 8 p.m., cops responded to a 911 call of a man stabbed inside a West 110th Street residence. When they arrived, they found Keith Warney, 45, stabbed in his neck. He was taken to the hospital and pronounced dead. They arrested Saladin Saunders, 41, nearby at 110th Street and Lexington Avenue, charging him with murder and criminal possession of a weapon. The two were reportedly neighbors in a homeless shelter. **METRO/AB**

Another subway tragedy, but this time a mystery

► Man found dead in subway tracks yesterday ► Cops say identity and cause of death unknown ► 15-percent increase in people struck in 2011

A man was found dead on the L train tracks at the First Avenue station early during yesterday morning's rush-hour commute. Police were investigating whether he was hit by a train.

The incident comes on the heels of the death of Queens man Ki-Suk Han last Monday, who was reportedly pushed into the tracks and then hit by a Q train at 49th Street after a platform altercation.

According to the MTA, the number of people hit by trains increased 15 percent in 2011. In 2010, 128 people had been struck by subway trains, and 147 were hit in 2011, according to the MTA. As of April of this year, the most recent data the MTA could provide, 49 people had been struck by trains.

In yesterday's incident, the NYPD reported a 911 call it received at 7:10 a.m. detailing a man struck by a train. MTA spokesman Kevin Ortiz said it was unclear whether the man had been hit by the train.

The victim was a white male who was declared dead on arrival, the NYPD reported.

At that rush-hour time, the L train runs every four to six minutes, Ortiz said.

The NYPD is conducting an investigation, but at this time it does not suspect criminal activ-



► Riders waited for the L yesterday at the First Avenue station.

MILES DIXON/METRO

Debate about barriers

Russianoff said one idea has been to install some sort of barrier, similar to what exists in Paris and London, between the train and the platform, "possibly at the most crowded" stations.

"It's not going to be a solution for the vast majority of cases. ... Older stations weren't designed with those sort of structures in mind."

RUSSIANOFF

After Han was crushed by a train last week, Naeem Davis, 30, was arraigned two days later and charged with second degree murder.

What to do if you fall in

The MTA does not provide safety advice, because station layouts and trackbed construction varies. "I don't think there's any sound advice that could be given," Straphangers Campaign spokesman Gene Russianoff agreed. In 2007, a 50-year-old construction worker and Navy veteran saved a fallen man's life by jumping in and lying on top of him between the rails.

A second incident

A second incident occurred just a few days later on Thursday night, when two men were safely pulled out of the tracks in the uptown 5 train station at Bowling Green. One had jumped in to rescue the other, the MTA said. Ortiz said that the oncoming train was approaching at a slow speed and stopped in time.



DANIELLE TCHOLAKIAN
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Fish sold in New York routinely mislabeled

NEW YORK. Nearly three in five New York City grocery stores and restaurants that sell seafood have mislabeled part of their stock, substituting varieties that could cause health problems, according to a new study. Some 39 percent of the fish obtained for the study by the ocean conservation group Oceana was inaccurately identified, Oceana said. Sometimes cheap fish is substituted for more expensive varieties. Forensic DNA analysis revealed 58 percent of 81 New York City retailers and eateries

sampled incorrectly labeled the seafood they sold, according to the study. In some instances, consumers unknowingly purchased fish that could pose health risks. Bluefin tilefish masqueraded as halibut and red snapper. The FDA urges pregnant women, nursing mothers and small children to avoid tilefish given its high mercury content. All but one of the 17 white tuna samples obtained from sushi restaurants turned out to be escolar, a fish whose diarrhea-inducing properties earned it the nickname the "ex-lax fish." **REUTERS**

This fish may not be what you think it is.



State's top court rules gang activity not terrorism

NEW YORK. A New York state anti-terrorism law enacted in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks cannot be used to prosecute a street gang member convicted of shooting a 10-year-old girl and paralyzing a rival gang member, the state's Court of Appeals ruled yesterday. The court ordered a new trial for Edgar Morales, 30, a member of the Bronx-based St. James Boys gang who was sentenced to up to life imprisonment for his role in the 2002 shooting. Prosecutors had accused Morales and his gang of terrorizing the Mexican-American communi-

Quoted

"The concept of terrorism has a unique meaning, and its implications risk being trivialized if the terminology is applied loosely."

JUDGE VICTORIA GRAFFEO

ty in their neighborhood. Morales is the only gang member to have been prosecuted under the law, his lawyer said. But the Court of Appeals found that state lawmakers never intended to extend the definition of terrorism to traditional gang activities. **REUTERS**

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Cops release video of Columbus Circle suspect's behavior before fatal gunshot

Police released video yesterday of the murderer they said shot a man in the middle of the day Monday.

The afternoon shooting near Columbus Circle terrified bystanders in a typically heavily populated area of Manhattan.

NYPD spokesman Paul Browne said yesterday that testing indicated that the same gun was used in a 2009 shooting in Queens, where 12 shots were fired at a residence by two men.

The video shows the gunman 10 minutes before the 2 p.m. shooting, exiting a car and putting up the hood of his jacket. He lingers nearby as people walk past him with umbrellas and shopping bags.

Police said Monday night that the man killed was Brandon Lincoln Woodard, a 31-year-old from Los Angeles.

A separate video still



► Police blocked off the scene Monday.

MILES DIXON/METRO

released by police shows Woodard walking in front of the killer shortly before he was shot. Woodard is walking and looking at his phone.

Woodard reportedly had a previous criminal record but

was then studying law at Loyola Marymount University.

He was shot at close range in the back of the head once from a silver semiautomatic handgun, cops said, on 58th Street near Broadway.

The suspect

NYPD



In the photo, the gunman is pulling the weapon from his right jacket pocket.

Cops said the shooter appears to be bald and might have a beard, and the car he exited was a late-model Lincoln sedan.



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Believe it or not, you are living longer

▶ New life expectancy averages break a record ▶ However, estimates for 20- and 30-somethings are lower

You might think those accumulated hours waiting for the subway and the stress of elbowing your way through crowds would take years off of your life — but you would be wrong.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg said yesterday that the life expectancy for New Yorkers is at a record high — locals should live until nearly 81 years.

This is 2.2 years higher than the national average of 78.7 years, he and Health Commissioner Dr. Thomas Farley announced.

Those most benefiting are the youngest — the babies born in 2010 are the ones given the

record estimate of 80.9 years.

But people at ages 20 and 30 don't receive an estimate that stretches into the 80s. According to the Health Department, life expectancy at 20 was 61.6 years; it was 51.9 years at 30.

The mayor said that his passionately pushed health interventions, like blocking smoking and adding HIV testing, contributed to the increase.

"New York City is increasingly a healthy place in which to live, work and raise a family," Farley said.



ALISON BOWEN
alison.bowen@metro.us

The middle-aged get a boost, too

▶ The life expectancy for 40-year-olds — about the average age of New Yorkers, according to the Health Department — also increased, to 82.3 years, and life expectancy for a 70-year-old is 87. Each of those estimates are longer than national trends.

▶ That predicted life span is longer than the record-breaking 80.9 years. Health Department spokeswoman Chanel Caraway said the longer someone lives, the higher the life expectancy they are afforded because they have already made it to 40 or 70.

3
Years increase in NYC's life expectancy rate since 2001

1.8
Nationwide increase in life expectancy rate since 2001

Barge. Tower



▶ Steel floats along the Hudson.

GETTY IMAGES

Ferrying steel to One World Trade tower

A barge carried sections of steel that will be the crowning spire for One World Trade Center along the Hudson River yesterday. The nine pieces of steel will eventually create the top of the tower at its height of 1,776 feet, which will be the tallest building in the Western Hemisphere. ● METRO/AB

News in brief

Man robbed cars inside garages

QUEENS. Police are looking for a man who robbed cars in three parking garages



this month in Queens. According to police, a man targeted three locations on Dec. 6, entering the parking

garage and taking money and credit cards from people's vehicles. The robberies were on 75th Street, Seventh Avenue and Bell Boulevard — all in Queens. ● METRO/AB

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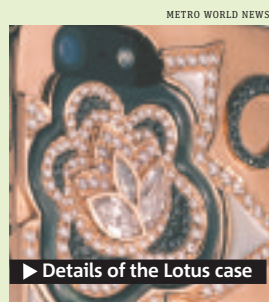
Rich-case scenario:
The \$300,000
iPhone case

The price of the world's most expensive iPhone 5 case is \$300,000. That's for the unique "Lotus" (phone not included) unveiled in November by Mischa Barton.

Sublime or ridiculous, the "Lotus" — crafted from rose gold, pink and white diamonds and the finest Italian leather — sits majestically at the top of an industry. Mike Morgan, senior analyst for mobile devices at ABI research, believes that "it's plausible to say that \$600 million worth of iPhone cas-

\$6.7B

Estimated value of the smartphone accessories industry for 2012



► Details of the Lotus case

es for Q4 will be sold globally because they're attached to the biggest device magnet on the planet."

The reason behind this market's growth is obvious: "Smartphones are taking over from feature phones and have a higher attach rate," says Morgan.

That's why owners are more willing to invest in accessorizing and personalizing their device, with Mischa being the latest celebrity to join the fashionable tech-accessories fold, which includes Versace, Mulberry, Marc by Marc Jacobs and even the traditional stationers Smythson, to rattle off a few. **MWN/RICHARD PECKETT**

Twitter adds photo tools to challenge Instagram

Twitter unveiled tools to adjust the color, size and style of photos uploaded via applications for Apple iPhones and Android phones, as the social-media site adds features to compete with Facebook's Instagram.

The photo filters, developed in partnership with software maker Aviary Inc., are part of an update to the mobile apps made available yesterday, San Francisco-based Twitter said in a blog post.

Twitter is letting users add pictures, video and audio to their postings as it steps up competition with Facebook, which bought photo-sharing service Instagram earlier this year. Last week, Instagram disabled a feature called Twitter Cards for showcasing photos and other media. The move was seen as a step that better



► Twitter's filters mimic the features that has defined Instagram.

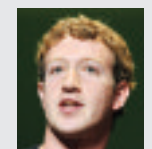
prepares Instagram for generating revenue from its own services by driving traffic to its website.

Twitter's updated photo-enhancing apps will probably

bring more exposure to Aviary, a New York-based startup with backing from Amazon.com Inc. founder Jeff Bezos and LinkedIn Corp. co-founder Reid Hoffman. **BLOOMBERG**

Zuckerberg saw the importance

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg similarly argued for the importance



of photo-sharing when he shocked Silicon Valley earlier this year by making an offer to Instagram valued at the time at \$1 billion.

Twitter's new photo effects will be incorporated as part of an update to the Twitter's iPhone and Android apps, available beginning Monday, the company said. **REUTERS**



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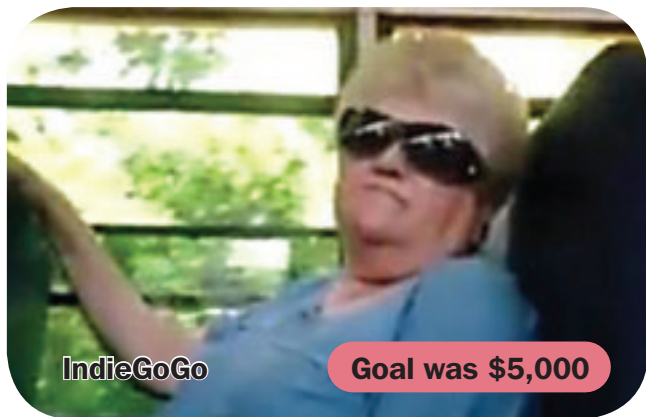
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In the news

Delta buys 49% Virgin Atlantic Stake for NYC-UK service

ATLANTA/LONDON. Delta Air Lines agreed to buy a 49 percent stake in Richard Branson's Virgin Atlantic Airways for \$360 million to boost its share of the lucrative trans-Atlantic travel market.



The carriers will begin a joint venture on 31 daily round-trip flights

between North America and the U.K. as they use Virgin Atlantic's base at London's Heathrow airport, Europe's busiest, according to a statement today. The Virgin Atlantic stake has been held by Singapore Airlines since 1999. **BLOOMBERG**

Cayman Island police arrest premier over credit card use

Cayman Islands Premier McKeeva Bush was arrested for misuse of a government credit card and importing explosive substances, the Caribbean country's police said.

Bush, 57, was taken into custody at 7 a.m. today at his home in West Bay, according to a statement e-mailed by the police. The premier, who took office in 2009 and has been in the legislature since 1984, is

known in the assembly as the "Father of the House," according to his official biography.

Officials with the ruling United Democratic Party are meeting to determine how the government will proceed, the Cayman Compass newspaper reported on its website, citing sources it didn't name. Deputy Premier Julianna O'Connor-Connelly would serve in Bush's place. **BLOOMBERG**

Throng in Michigan protest union dues: 'There Will Be Blood'

Michigan lawmakers approved bills to prohibit mandatory union dues in workplaces as thousands of chanting protesters thronged the Lansing Capitol.

"This is the day when Michigan freed its workers," Representative Lisa Posthumus Lyons, an Alto Republican, said today during debate on two bills, one for public employees and another for private ones.

If Republican Governor Rick Snyder signs the so-called Right-to-Work measures as promised, Michigan would become the 24th state to enact



► Union members from around the country rallied at the Michigan State Capitol to protest a vote on Right-to-Work legislation yesterday in Lansing.

GETTY IMAGES

such legislation, and the second this year after Indiana. The change would be a practical and symbolic rout in a stronghold of organized labor in the U.S., and opponents said it pre-saged political warfare.

"There will be blood," Representative Douglas Geiss, a Democrat from Taylor, said in debate.

Labor supporters converged on the statehouse as lawmakers debated the measures for the state that's home to the United Auto Workers and the three largest U.S. automakers.

BLOOMBERG

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Democrats failed to strip from bills appropriations to administer the measures. This shields the laws from repeal through public referendum.

'Civil war'

Bill Bagwell, a 55-year-old UAW member from Westland, said the measure would create friction at his General Motors plant in Ypsilanti. Members who pay union dues would detest those

who enjoy the benefits of the contract but don't contribute, he said.

"It'll create civil war," Bagwell said.

Officials spent days gearing up for crowds brought out by the legislature's sudden action

last week to give initial approval to the anti-dues bills, which exclude police and firefighters.

The crowd numbered more than 10,000, according to State Police Inspector Gene Adamczyk, with more buses still arriving. **BLOOMBERG**

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In the news

Boehner stands firm but hopeful on 'fiscal cliff'

WASHINGTON. House of Representatives Speaker John Boehner offered no concrete signs of progress yesterday on the "fiscal cliff" talks but said he remained hopeful that both sides would reach an agreement by the end-of-year deadline.

Amid signs that the White House and Boehner's office are making headway in the talks, Boehner repeated his now-familiar call for President Barack Obama to offer a new proposal to avert the automatic steep tax hikes and spending cuts set for the end of the year unless Congress intervenes.

"I'm an optimist. I'm hope-

ful we can reach an agreement," Boehner said on the House floor.

While Boehner demanded more specific spending cuts from Obama, White House spokesman Jay Carney said the administration had submitted extensive proposals to reduce spending but Republicans had not offered specifics on increasing revenues.

"There is a deal out there that's possible," Carney told reporters. It could include reduced spending, more revenues and tax reform as long as Republicans accepted higher tax rates on the wealthiest Americans, he said.

"We do believe the parameters of a compromise are pretty clear," Carney said.

The pace of staff-level talks has quickened since Boehner met on Sunday with Obama at the White House in a meeting that the Republican described as "nice" and "cordial."

But Senate Democratic leader Harry Reid said it would be difficult to reach an agreement before Christmas.

REUTERS

HSBC to pay \$1.9 billion US fine in money-laundering case

HSBC Holdings agreed to pay a record \$1.92 billion in fines to U.S. authorities for allowing itself to be used to launder a river of drug money flowing out of Mexico and other banking lapses.

Mexico's Sinaloa cartel and Colombia's Norte del Valle cartel between them laundered \$881 million through HSBC and a Mexican unit, the U.S. Justice Department said yesterday.

In a deferred prosecution agreement with the Justice Department, the bank acknowledged that it failed to maintain an effective program against money laundering and failed to conduct basic due diligence on some of its account holders.

Under the agreement, which was reported by Reuters last week, the bank agreed to take steps to fix the problems, forfeit \$1.256 billion and retain a compliance monitor. The bank also agreed to pay \$665

A place to launder

Despite the known risks of doing business in Mexico, the bank put the country in its lowest risk category, which excluded \$670 billion in transactions from the monitoring systems, according to the documents.

million in civil penalties to regulators including to the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, the Federal Reserve, and the Treasury Department.

"We accept responsibility for our past mistakes. We have said we are profoundly sorry for them, and we do so again. The HSBC of today is a fundamentally different organization from the one that made those mistakes," HSBC Chief Executive Stuart Gulliver said.

REUTERS



▶ HSBC told investors it had set aside \$1.5 billion to cover fines or penalties and warned that costs could be significantly higher.

Fines to fix the problems

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\$1.256B

Will be forfeited by HSBC, and the bank will retain a compliance monitor

\$665M

In civil penalties to regulators including to the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, the Fed, and the Treasury

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Yahoo CEO unveils overhaul of e-mail

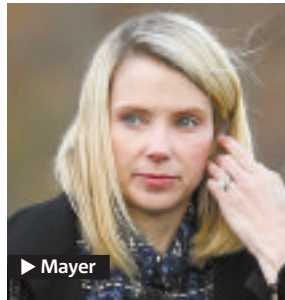
Yahoo rolled out new versions of its popular Web e-mail on Tuesday, the first major product makeover since Chief Executive Marissa Mayer took the helm of the struggling Internet company five months ago.

Yahoo released new versions of its Yahoo Mail product for smartphones and tablets — in keeping with Mayer's focus on mobile devices — and a revamped version of its Web-based mail product for PC users that cuts out ancillary features and that the company said delivers faster performance.

Yahoo is the No. 1 Web e-mail product in the United States and No. 3 worldwide, behind Google's Gmail and Microsoft's Hotmail, according to comScore.

But the number of unique users of Yahoo e-mail declined 16 percent in November from a year earlier in the United States and 7 percent worldwide, according to comScore.

Analysts say the decline owes partly to a younger generation of Internet users who prefer to communicate with text messages on their phones



► Mayer

Quoted

"You told us loud and clear that you wanted fewer distractions when it comes to e-mail. You want to quickly log in, communicate and get on with your day."

MAYER IN A POST ON YAHOO'S OFFICIAL BLOG

rather than e-mail.

Mayer, a former Google executive who is widely admired in Silicon Valley for her Web-product savvy, is moving to revitalize Yahoo's various Web products and reverse years of declining revenue.

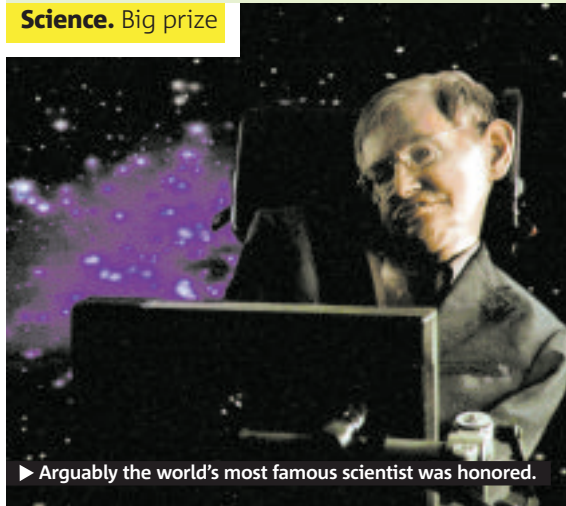
She has said her top priority is to create a coherent mobile strategy for Yahoo and that she intends for at least half of the company's technical workforce to be working on mobile products.

As part of yesterday's announcement, Yahoo unveiled an update to its mobile email app for smartphones based on the Android operating system, as well as Yahoo's first stand-alone app for Apple's iPhone.

Yahoo also released a version designed for tablets and PCs based on Microsoft's new Windows 8 operating system.

Vivek Sharma, General Manager of Yahoo Mail & Messenger, said the group of new mobile apps was part of Yahoo's goal of ensuring that its products are available across all major mobile platforms. **REUTERS**

Science. Big prize



► Arguably the world's most famous scientist was honored.

FREDERICK M. BROWN/GETTY IMAGES

Hawking, CERN win \$3M prize

Stephen Hawking, the British cosmologist who urged people to "be curious" at the Paralympics opening ceremony, has landed the richest prize in science for his work on how black holes emit radiation. Hawking won \$3 million from Russian Internet entrepreneur Yuri Milner, who set up his prize this year to address what he regards as a lack of recognition in the modern world for leading scientists. Along with Hawking, a second \$3 million award has gone to the scientists behind the discovery this year of a new subatomic particle that behaves like the theoretical Higgs boson. **REUTERS**

In the news

New stretchy electronics inspired by nature

Scientists in Switzerland have come up with a material mimicking the way tendons connect to bones, which could speed the development of stretchy, wearable electronic devices.

The stretchable electronics industry is in its infancy, but devices that are able to flex without breaking could revolutionize devices from smartphones and solar cells to medical implants.

But while circuits and wiring are quite happy on rigid surfaces like those in a tablet computer, they break easily when combined with materials that stretch.

"You have two materials with very different mechanical properties," said Andre Studart, a researcher at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich, said. "The challenge is to bridge these different properties." **REUTERS**



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Weekly Photo Tip

Tips for Terrific Holiday Light Photography:

Photographing holiday lights can seem intimidating, but all you really need is a quality point and shoot camera and a bit of insight as to how to ensure the decorations take center stage:

Timing is Key: Some professionals recommend photographing outdoor decorative lighting shortly BEFORE the sun sets. Try to be at your location and ready well in advance. During the dusk period, you'll find a pleasant balance of diminishing ambient light contrasting with the holiday lights, which means you'll be able to include more objects in the background.

Bring Your Tripod: Using a tripod is especially important when photographing holiday lights. A tripod provides stability, something that is particularly critical with low-light photography. It will also keep your image properly framed as the evening light transitions from dusk to darkness. Long exposure images are vulnerable to camera shake, so avoid handheld shooting if at all possible. If you don't have a tripod, find a nearby wall or fence to provide additional support.

Tungsten Setting: Holiday lights use tungsten lighting so you'll want to set your white balance to tungsten as well. Using this setting will provide a nice contrast between the background sky and the lights. With a point and shoot camera, many of today's models have a setting for nighttime shooting. Your flash may fire because it is interpreting that you have a subject that needs to be lit, but unless the decorations are only a few feet away, it won't make much difference. This leads us to our next tip...

Forget the Flash: For holiday lights, it's best to let the decorations take center stage so keep your flash off. A strong D-SLR flash can wash out the image and detract from the final result.

A Shot a Minute Sequence: Once you have everything set, begin taking a photograph every minute or so. Your eyes may not register the gradual changes of the setting sun so track the time with your watch or cell phone. Shoot once per minute or so over a 10-15 minute period. You'll see the changes in evening lighting as you scroll through your shots.

Photographing holiday lights will not only help you experiment with low-light photography, it can also be a great way to share your expertise with the younger photographers in your life. If you have a child or young relative that loves to take pictures, why not bring that budding photographer along? Think of it as a mini holiday photo safari!

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THE WORD



Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** shares her take on the world of gossip [@dorothyatmetro](#) dorothy.robinson@metro.us

A look back: Celebrity engagements of 2012

Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie

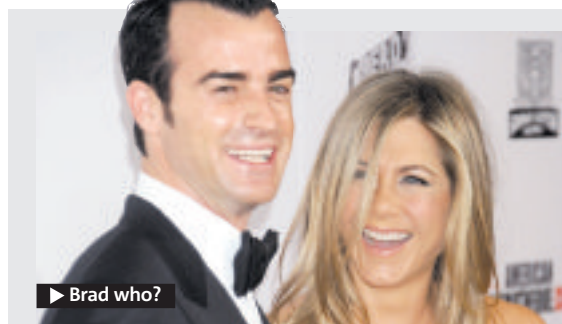
The deets: Pitt proposed to Jolie, his longtime girlfriend with whom he has six children, in April with a \$500,000, 16-carat rock. "It seems to mean more and more to our kids," he says about finally tying the knot, to *Us Weekly*.
Wedding date: Ha. Like they'd tell us.



► The soon-to-be Mr. and Mrs. Pitt have six kids.

Evan Rachel Wood and Jamie Bell

The deets: The two got engaged in January. They met while starring in a Green Day music video in 2005; they broke up when she moved on with Marilyn Manson and reconnected when her engagement to the goth rocker ended in 2010.
Wedding date: Already happened! They were married on Halloween in California. "It was a small ceremony with close family and friends," said her rep in a statement.

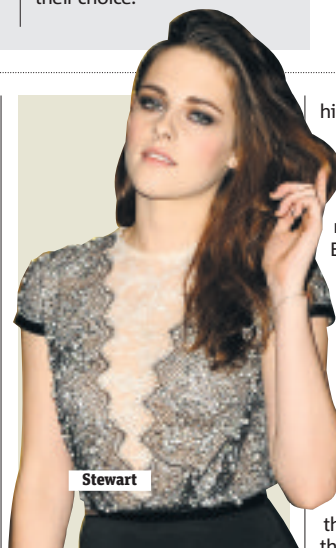


► Brad who?

Justin Theroux and Jennifer Aniston

The deets: The two actors, who met on the set of "Wanderlust," got engaged in New York City on Aug. 10. Theroux proposed

with an 8-carat ring, worth an estimated \$500,000.
Wedding date: Again, we'll never know until they sell their photos to the magazine of their choice.



Stewart

Justin Mikita and Jesse Tyler Ferguson

The deets: "Modern Family" star Jesse Tyler Ferguson and his lawyer fiancé Justin Mikita got engaged in July at Sofia Vergara's Mexican birthday party. The two broke the news

in September in a video for Tie the Knot, an organization the couple launched to support marriage equality.

Wedding date: Ferguson told E! they will be getting married in 2013. "I did go get a Martha Stewart Weddings magazine, but it's really a lot of over-the-top stuff," he said.

Hilaria Thomas and Alec Baldwin

The deets: The two lovebirds got engaged in April, less than a year after they first met.
Wedding date: It already happened (Baldwin moves fast). The two were wed in June in New York City.

Liam Hemsworth and Miley Cyrus

The deets: They might be young (he's 22, she's 20) but that doesn't mean they won't last forever (actually, yes, yes it does). The "Hunger Games" actor proposed to Cyrus in May, three years after they started dating, with a 3.5-carat diamond ring.
Wedding date: Eh, you RE-ALLY think this one is going to happen?



Hemsworth and Cyrus

Avril Lavigne and Chad Kroeger

The deets: Oh, Canada! The two got engaged in August, surprising a lot of fans (and gossip columnists) who didn't even know they were dating. "Things just clicked real quick," Kroeger, the lead singer of Nickelback, told a radio station about Lavigne.
Wedding date: I'm kind of getting the vibe they'll skip the wedding and just go straight to procreating Canadian royalty.



The feed ...

► Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Today, Kirstie Alley is packing heat, Niall Horan could use some excitement, Mark Ruffalo is looking forward to getting back to work and Albert Brooks is discovering the power of silence.

@kirstiealley

Dear PA who rang the gate with a script at 3 AM...notice mailbox to the left of driveway...NOTICE the actress with a Glock in upstairs window

@NiallOfficial

Sittin' at home! Bored t death!

@Mruff221

I got a text from Joss Whedon the other day. Sounds like he is writing some very interesting stuff for Banner and his alter ego The Hulk.

@AlbertBrooks

By not tweeting I have gained substantially more followers.



Kirstie Alley

Talking points

Stewart is cool with getting naked, OK?

Kristen Stewart is sick and tired of all the attention her nude scenes in "On the Road" are getting. "I do hate also when people go, 'Oh wow, great performance. So brave,'" she tells the Huffington Post. "Because I'm naked? That's annoying. But at the same time, if that's what they're focusing on, then 'On the Road' probably isn't for them anyway." Stewart

is a diehard fan of the **Jack Kerouac** novel on which the film is based, which meant she had no hesitation about doing the more revealing scenes. "This book celebrates being alive and it celebrates being human, and if you want to cover up and deny any aspect of that, you are denying the spirit of the book," she says.

One Direction isn't too keen on Swift's private jet

Taylor Swift's fledgling romance with **Harry Styles** appears to already be causing strife among

his One Direction bandmates. So what's got them all worked up? Travel arrangements, it turns out. After the band's stay in New York, Styles reportedly headed back to England with Swift on her private jet while the rest of the band traveled separately, according to E! News. "The rest of the band were a bit annoyed about the whole thing," a source says. "They took a Virgin commercial flight and there were tons of spare seats on the jet. They had just finished a huge concert in N.Y. and all of them were on a high. The fact that he left them to travel solo

irritated them a bit."

Cruise's Christmas includes all the kids

Tom Cruise is spending Christmas with the kids, he tells *People* magazine. "We have got lots of very special things planned," Cruise said while at the London premiere of "Jack Reacher," his first public appearance since his divorce from **Katie Holmes**. Those special plans involve his children **Bella**, 20, and **Connor**, 17, plus **Suri**, the 6-year-old daughter he shares with Holmes. "We are all going to be together."

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'Tis the season for film premieres

1: Rosamund Pike and Tom Cruise posed on the red carpet at the world premiere of their new film, "Jack Reacher," on Monday in London.

2: Ewan McGregor and Naomi Watts attended the Los Angeles premiere of their latest flick, "The Impossible," on Monday in Hollywood.

3: Luciana Baroso and husband Matt Damon were at the premiere of Damon's new film, "Promised Land," on Thursday in Los Angeles.

4: Director **Kathryn Bigelow** was with **Jessica Chastain** at the premiere of "Zero Dark Thirty" on Monday in Hollywood.

5: Liv Tyler wowed at the New York premiere of "The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey" on Thursday in New York City.

1: CLAIRE GREENWAY/GETTY IMAGES
2: JASON MERRITT/GETTY IMAGES
3: ALBERTO E. RODRIGUEZ/GETTY IMAGES
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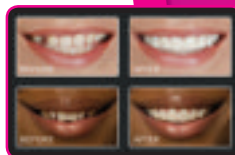
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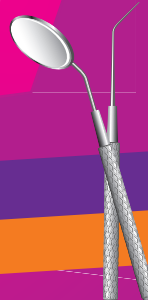
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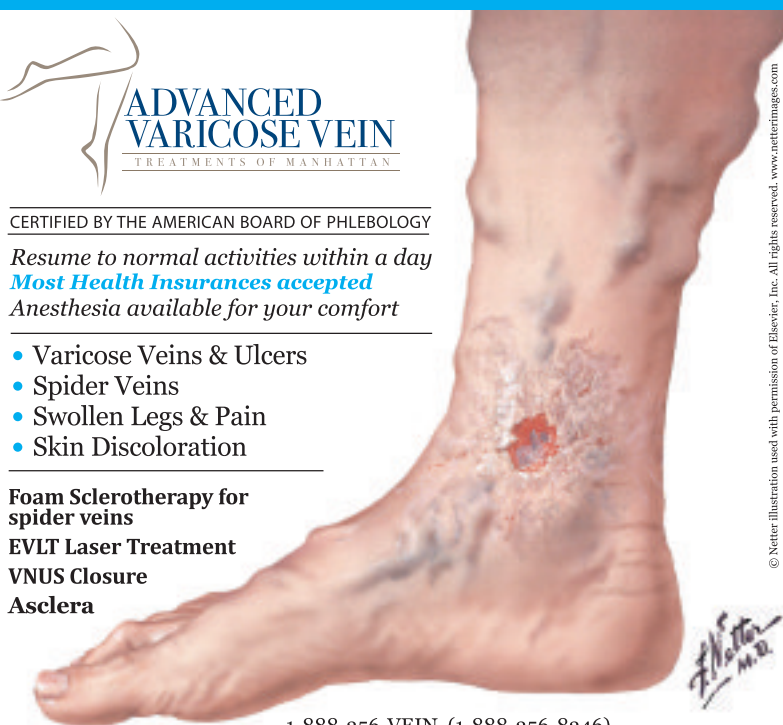


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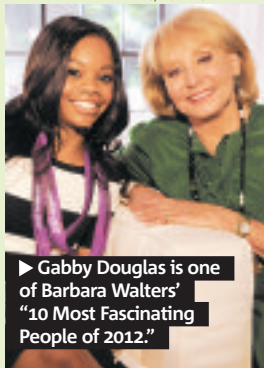
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TV watch list

ABC/ DONNA SVENNEVIK



► Gabby Douglas is one of Barbara Walters' "10 Most Fascinating People of 2012."

'The 10 Most Fascinating People of 2012'

SPECIAL. Barbara Walters sits down with the year's headline-makers, from Chris Christie to Gabby Douglas to "Fifty Shades of Grey" author E.L. James, which should make for some delightfully awkward conversation. **9:30 p.m., ABC**

'12-12-12: The Concert for Sandy Relief'

SPECIAL. Top-flight entertainers including Bruce Springsteen, The Rolling Stones, Bon Jovi, Kanye West and Alicia Keys perform in a fundraising effort to help those affected by Hurricane Sandy. **7:30 p.m., check listings at www.121212concert.org/broadcast**

'Amish Mafia'

REALITY. Taking neighborhood watch to a whole new level, the men of Lancaster, Pa., who use unconventional measures to protect their Amish community are profiled in this questionable series — since when do the Amish drive cars, anyway? **Series premiere, 9 p.m., Discovery**

'Arrow'

DRAMA. Oliver throws a Christmas party, but not everyone's in the mood to celebrate. Perhaps a flash of those abs could convince them otherwise? **8 p.m., The CW** **AMBER RAY**

Bruno Mars gets 'Unorthodox'

► He may have had success with 'The Lazy Song,' but when the singer got off tour, his 'nothing at all' approach to his new album was not by choice

Bruno Mars is wearing a mostly unbuttoned shirt and speaking slowly while settling into a huge, brown leather couch.

Relaxed, cool and confident — that's how he appears talking about his new album, "Unorthodox Jukebox." And he probably is, at least today. But that's not how the 27-year-old singer felt when he started on the album, the successor to his hugely successful debut "Doo-Wops & Hooligans" from 2010.

"I went through writer's block — two months of being uninspired. It was just weeks and weeks of going back into the studio and trying to write something that means something. ... I was afraid I'd never be able to write anything ever again," says the singer.

Mars says he thinks that it was the many months that he spent touring "Doo-Wops" that



JAMES MOONEY

► Bruno Mars says he doesn't know why his writer's block ended. "Suddenly, for some reason, it started flowing again," he says.

made it difficult to get back into songwriting mode.

"You have such a repetitive life on tour, traveling and singing the same songs over and over again. It's hard to be creative when you've got personal problems with your family or something like that," he says, before seeming to realize he has revealed something more private than what he wanted to share.

But he will open up about the "Unorthodox Jukebox" title.

"The way I write music is what makes me unorthodox," he says. "To the suits, that's a bad thing, because they have to

Quoted

"I went through writer's block — two months of being uninspired. ... I was afraid I'd never be able to write anything ever again." MARS

think about marketing and what radio station will play this song and who will listen to it ... I never understood [that]. If

Q&A: Bruno's other jukebox

If we were in a bar ... I'd say, 'What's up, toots?'
... and I gave you a dollar for the jukebox, what three songs would you play? Right now? The way I'm feeling right now? We're in a bar. ... Is it nighttime?
Yes. ... It's around 10 p.m. and we've had three beers. I'd play Zeppelin, "Whole Lotta Love" to start the s— off. And then I would play "I'm Too Sexy" by Right Said Fred. Why not? We've had three beers and I'm hitting on you. I'm gonna dance, too. And the third one ... to really freak and weird the people out is Celine Dion, "My Heart Will Go On." Just to really bum out the whole bar. But I'd sing along.
These are all really old ... You're asking me, right? I like old songs. And for some reason, I see you and me at the bar feeling kind of sexy.



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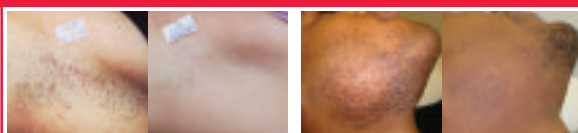
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In the news

Facebook gifts now available to every user in US

Facebook is rolling out its new Gifts service to everyone in the U.S., the company announced yesterday — just in time for the



holidays. The social network first announced plans to relaunch a gift-giving service in September and has since added partners ranging from Pandora to Brookstone. Until now, however, Facebook Gifts has been in beta and invite-only. Starting today, any user in

the U.S. will be able to send friends real gifts through Facebook that get delivered to their door. There are gifts in a range of categories, including food, baby products and kitchen goods. Facebook also announced that it has added a wine category for users who are of drinking age.

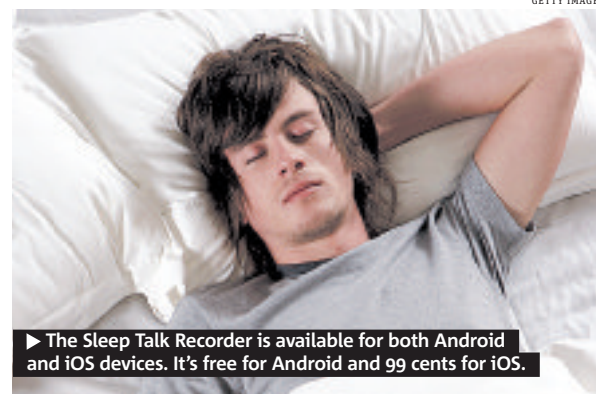
In addition, Facebook users now have the option to use the service to donate to the Robin Hood Foundation's relief efforts

for Hurricane Sandy, as well as make donations to other nonprofits like Blue Star Families and Donors Choose.

The new service is also a gift to Facebook's investors, as it has potential to serve as an additional source of revenue.

SETH FIEGERMAN FOR
Mashable
The Social Media Guide

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Talking in your sleep? There's an app for that

The average person will spend about a third of his or her life asleep. And while researchers continue to look for answers as to just why it is we sleep, a lot of questions still remain unanswered. Why do we dream? What do dreams actually mean? And why do we talk in our sleep?

As with most predicaments these days, there's an app for it.

It's called Sleep Talk Recorder and it records everything you say while you snooze. The app launched in Sweden in 2010 and has racked up almost 2 million downloads to date. The Sleep Talk Recorder has made its way to the United States and now the folks behind the app are hoping to make a documentary out of the stories that surface from its users.

"I was chatting with a friend ... about a weird dream I had just had," says Martin Lindau, co-founder of Mad In Sweden, the company behind the app. "We both thought, 'Well, there must be a way to use your phone to record what you say in your sleep.'"

The app only records

sounds — usually in short, five-second integrals — so there's no blank recording. Once you wake up, you can listen to the snippets you said during the night and share them to the main feed for other users to see.

The main focus of the documentary, Lindau says, is to capture stories where the app has inspired or helped someone. He cites a recent case in New York.

"This man was having sleeping problems. Every night, his dog ... would lick his face and wake him up," he said.

Lindau says the man tried the app and discovered the next morning that he was the problem. During the night, he made a series of growl-like snores — which is likely what caused his dog to wake him up.

"Those are the kind of stories we're curious to find," Lindau says. The documentary is still in its early phases, though Lindau is hoping for a December 2013 completion date.

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Seasonal Affective Disorder: It's the real deal

PHOTOS.COM



► Dr. Anderson says that Seasonal Affective Disorder gets better with exposure to natural sunlight.

To some, it's a myth; to others, it's an annual plight. Seasonal Affective Disorder is not yet fully understood — but as days grow shorter, sufferers report symptoms like less energy, sleepiness, increased appetite and sadness. Metro asked psychologist Dr. Janis Anderson, the director of Boston's Brigham and Women's Hospital's Seasonal Affective Disorders Clinic, for some insight into this peculiar problem.

What is Seasonal Affective Disorder?

Seasonal Affective Disorder is a form of major depression. The timing is different, but the presentation is the same. Major depression is depression lasting longer than two weeks that interferes with normal life.

Isn't S.A.D. just a myth?

We've seen brain scans and studies that have shown that Seasonal Affective Disorder fits the major depression profile. There are physiological changes that are the same.

Quoted

"Seasonal Affective Disorder is a form of major depression. The timing is different, but the presentation is the same."

ANDERSON

Who gets S.A.D. more, men or women?

"Women. We just don't know why. It's true that in general women have more depression. But it's certainly true of S.A.D."

Does our vitamin D production have something to do with it?

Some studies have looked into that, and there's some speculation. But there is no specific evidence. The evidence points to daylight hitting the retina, which in turn affects parts of the brain that respond to light, even in blind people. Mammals [use an] internal calendar.

Do we know what causes it?

There were studies done in Alaska and Siberia that compared natives who still lived a traditional life with those who led modern city lives. The rates of S.A.D. were higher in the people who lived modern lives. We don't know why. It's one of those intriguing mysteries.

Is it preventable?

Move to Hawaii! Really, it's sensitive to geographical location. The further from the equator, the more incidences we see.

How can it be treated?

We see improved function with more light exposure. Walking in daylight without sunglasses, even if it's cloudy, for 40 minutes a day, helps — particularly in the early morning hours.

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Health notes

Worst cookbooks chosen by docs

The unhealthiest cookbooks, per the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine, are:

- **The Unofficial Downton Abbey Cookbook:** One serving of Squab with Fig Foie Gras contains more cholesterol than 10 Big Macs and about as much fat as 12 tablespoons of lard.
- **Emeril's Kicked-Up Sandwiches:** One of Emeril's Monte Cristo sandwich contains as much sodium as half a medium Papa John's pepperoni pizza.
- **Rachael Ray's My Year in Meals:** One serving of Hearty Mac & Cheese with Squash & Sausage contains about as much saturated fat as a package of Original Oscar Mayer Bacon.
- **Fifty Shades of Chicken:** Just four Bacon-Bound Wings contain more cholesterol than a 10-ounce New York strip steak at Outback Steakhouse.
- **Southern Living: The Official SEC Tailgating Cookbook:** One serving of the Sausage-Hash



Win this baby in
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of Christmas giveaway.

Brown Breakfast Casserole has more cholesterol than eight Cinnamon Classics.

Get spinning in your own home

You could win a new spin bike, DVDs, clothing and more as part of Spinning's 12 Days of Christmas giveaway, running Friday through Dec. 25. Become a fan of the cycle company on Facebook (Facebook.com/spinning) and watch for opportunities to share Spinning successes, photos and answers to trivia questions. Each winner will be decided by a panel of Spinning judges and will be announced every day at 7 p.m.

Stretch your hams, get glam

This holiday party season, thank your lucky stars you have access to New York Sports Clubs' new Blitz and Glitz class, free for members and nonmembers alike. It starts with 30 minutes of cardio and is followed by a personal primping session, complete with a blowout and beauty products. Swing by NYSC's 59th and Park or Sheridan Square locations at 5 p.m., now through Dec. 21, to take part.

Say OK to a CSA

If you love the idea of a CSA but can't find one near you, why not start your own? Just Food's free workshop, held this Friday from 6:30-8 p.m. at its office (1155 Avenue of the Americas, Third Floor) will teach you everything you need to know to start out.

Where we stand

New York ranks at No. 18 this year (it was No. 20 in 2011) when compared with the health of other states. *Source: America's Health Rankings*

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- Do you have spider veins on your legs and/or ankles? ☐
- Do the veins in your legs appear very dark blue or purple? ☐
- Is the pain in your legs worse after sitting or standing a long period of time? ☐
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- Do you have restless legs? ☐

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Approximately 200 people in the U.S. die and as many as 40,000 people seek medical attention every year for carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning, a life-threatening condition that results from exposure to the colorless, odorless carbon monoxide gas. Carbon monoxide is a product of burning organic fuels (propane gas, kerosene, wood, oil, gasoline, etc.) in fireplaces, stoves, propane heaters, furnaces and automobile or generator engines. The risk increases in winter and after power outages, as people try to warm their homes and discover (often too late) that they have a faulty furnace or inadequate exhaust for a fireplace, or when they improperly use a generator indoors.

Carbon monoxide blocks the transport of oxygen in the bloodstream, leading to oxygen

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deprivation for vital organs. Symptoms may include: headache, fatigue, lightheadedness, nausea, confusion, a rapid heartbeat and breathlessness. Symptoms can often be mistaken for a flu-like illness, so recognizing carbon monoxide poisoning is sometimes challenging. Prolonged exposure at high concentrations can result in death if not detected and treated promptly.

Prevention of carbon monoxide poisoning is easy, and it's the most important means of avoiding the consequences. All levels of your home should have a plug-in CO detector/alarm with battery backup. Detectors are available at almost any hardware or home supply store. A good way to remember to change your batteries is to do so when you set your clocks for daylight savings (this is when you should also change your smoke detector batteries). Every year, have any heating systems — your furnace, hot water heater and

gas/oil/coal-burning appliances — as well as chimneys inspected by a trained technician to ensure adequate venting and exhaust. Don't use any fuel-burning devices — propane or kerosene heaters, gasoline generators or gas stoves — as a source of heat indoors, ever. Finally, it may be tempting to warm up your car while it's in the garage on cold mornings, but even with the garage door open, CO from the exhaust can seep into your home.

If you suspect that you or a family member may have been exposed or have symptoms from CO poisoning, go to your nearest hospital emergency department for evaluation and treatment with oxygen therapy as soon as possible.

— **Mark Melrose, DO**, is a board-certified emergency physician at Urgent Care Manhattan. E-mail him your questions: askdrmark@metro.us.

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages.

“When it comes to holiday eating,
you are in control.”

PASS IT ON!

“It's not easy staying lean-and-mean with all those high-calorie, high-fat foods that are served during holiday meals.

“The secret is to remember that **you are in control**. You can eat just about anything as long as you enjoy small portions and say ‘No’ to seconds. Also, remember that alcohol is empty calories. Drink water or club soda instead. And when it comes to those sweet desserts, take a taste, but don't go crazy.

“Especially during the holiday season, I make it a point to **eat healthy, exercise daily, and watch my blood sugar and cholesterol levels, weight and blood pressure**. All it takes is small lifestyle changes to bring a full-court press against diabetes, and help win the fight against obesity, heart disease and stroke. **For more healthy tips, along with a chance to win a FREE autographed jersey, visit me at www.facebook.com/HFHealthyLiving.**”

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Today in medicine



► A new Cornell study shows that not everybody is smitten with an organic label.

Organic labels don't always impress

Study subjects: 215 students in part one of the study and 156 students in part two
Location of study: U.S.
Results: Researchers at Cornell University and the University of Michigan did a two-part study on the "halo effect" of organic foods — the idea that an organic food label makes a consumer think the food is healthier than a food with a conventional label. They found that many participants deemed the food with the organic label healthier, but also expressed low expectations on whether it would taste good. The low taste expectations were especially prevalent among participants who didn't have much concern about the environment. The second part of the study looked at why people who did care about the environment might view organic labels negatively.
Significance: "The halo effect hinges on the values of the perceiver," says Cornell researcher Jonathon Schuldt. "It's not the

case that you can label a food organic and expect that everyone will perceive it more positively. Under certain circumstances, ethical labels could have an unintended backfire effect."

Childless couples die earlier

Study subjects: 21,276 childless couples registered for IVF
Location of study: Denmark
Results: A study published online in the Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health found that childless couples successfully treated for infertility — meaning they eventually had children — had longer lifespans than couples who remained without children. The rate of mental health problems in couples who adopted children was also half the rate of such problems in couples without any kids.
Significance: Interestingly, the rates of mental illness were similar for couples who had children of their own and those who did not have any children.

Sleeping pills have tie to pneumonia

Study subjects: 5,000 primary care patients diagnosed with pneumonia
Location of study: U.K.
Results: New research published online in the journal Thorax found that Benzodiazepines, commonly used as sleeping pills and sedatives, could increase the risk of catching pneumonia and dying from it, possibly from its effects on the immune system. The drug is also linked to a heightened risk of infections and death from blood poisoning (sepsis).
Significance: About 2 percent of the population in the U.K. and the U.S. have taken benzodiazepines for 12 months or more. Among the elderly, the rate is 10 percent.

Loneliness linked to dementia

Study subjects: 2,000 people with no signs of dementia living independently for three years
Location of study: Amsterdam
Results: A study published online in the Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery and Psychiatry found that elderly people who reported feeling lonely had a 2.5 times increased incidence of dementia.
Significance: The degree of one's social support — along with older age, underlying medical conditions, genes, impaired cognition and depression — could be another tool in predict the development of dementia in later life.

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Letters

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Fewer wars, fewer wounded to care for in the aftermath

Over the next 50 or 60 years, American taxpayers will be paying for the disabled veterans of past military actions. Let's hope we have no more.

It has been my own personal observation that when the central government is confronted with a major national security issue, it spasmodically reacts by increasing the size of the military — both head count and material. During these spasmodic periods, personnel are recruited who are more susceptible to disabilities than the norm.

The government must address the intake side of the equation, if it is to be successful in reducing the number of the disabled in

the future.

RETIRED PFC. ROBERT A KEHL

Americans: Just like the Whos, but with less crazy hair

RE: "THE BEST HOLIDAY MOVIE? 'MIRACLE ON CAPITOL HILL'" (METRO, DEC. 11)

Over the past few days, I have read letters stating that people's holiday wishes include politicians sitting down together, but Boehner (and the GOP) consistently act like the Grinch. You see, all the Whos in Whoville love their socialist presents from big government that create their holiday we call retirement. But the Grinch hates government and socialism. To him, nothing's funny, especially the poor, ill and elderly get-

ting his money. So he got an awful idea that he was quite fond of, to create a cliff made of tax cuts and sequestration to throw their presents off of. But the cliff wasn't too tall, the Whos not too scared, to stand up and fight, their retirement to spare. So to the mayor of Whoville, I say with smile, stand up for our holiday, don't cross the aisle.

COREY SAGENICH, VIA E-MAIL

Israelis claiming land with a deed they wrote

RE: "EU NEEDS TO GET ITS PRIORITIES STRAIGHT" (METRO, DEC. 10) Letter writer Arthur Horn needs to get his historical facts together. The Canaanites were in

Jerusalem before the Israelis. This is according to Jewish scriptures. The Romans built great cities out of London and Paris, and the Americas were populated by native people. The Palestinians have been in the so-called promised land for about 2,000 years. The Romans destroyed and sacked the second temple and built the Colosseum with the temple loot. Emperor Titus exiled the Israelis from Palestine in the first century. The world is what it is today, and the Israelis cannot use a book written by their ancestors to justify removing the long-term residents of Palestine because their God promised them a territory occupied by Canaanites, which they had to ethnic cleanse. Almost every nationality would be able to justify moving into another nationality's territory based on historical facts or self-created history if we were to take the Israelis' right to Palestine as a legal precedent to do so.

CARLTON NICKERSON, VIA E-MAIL

Horoscope

♊ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** You're entering a cycle where many of your hopes and expectations will have excellent chances of success. Operate to the best of your abilities, and luck will fill in the thin spots.

♊ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** Some beneficial happenings are going on behind the scenes. They may be hidden from your view, but don't worry — some delightful surprises are in the offing.

♊ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.**

Friends will start to play more prominent roles in your affairs. As long as you keep them out of areas pertaining to your finances, their input will be positive.

♊ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** You're now entering a good cycle for achievement, but you might be the last person to realize this. Don't allow negative thinking to put restrictions on your possibilities.

♊ Aries **March 21-April 19.** Some special knowledge you'll gain through a personal experience will be used to your advantage over and over again in the coming weeks. It'll give you the edge you've needed.

♊ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** You could be steered toward something that could turn out to be financially beneficial. If you should run into a

potential opportunity, check it out.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** Some kind of agreement you work out could have a lot of promising potential that, once implemented, will be long-lasting if you make sure it's as good for the others as it is for you.

♊ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** An interesting development could occur where your work or career is concerned. What transpires will go a long way toward helping you fulfill an ambitious objective.

♊ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** This could be an unusually good day for you to reorganize a situation that is personally important. Adjustments can be made to help you achieve whatever it is you need or want.

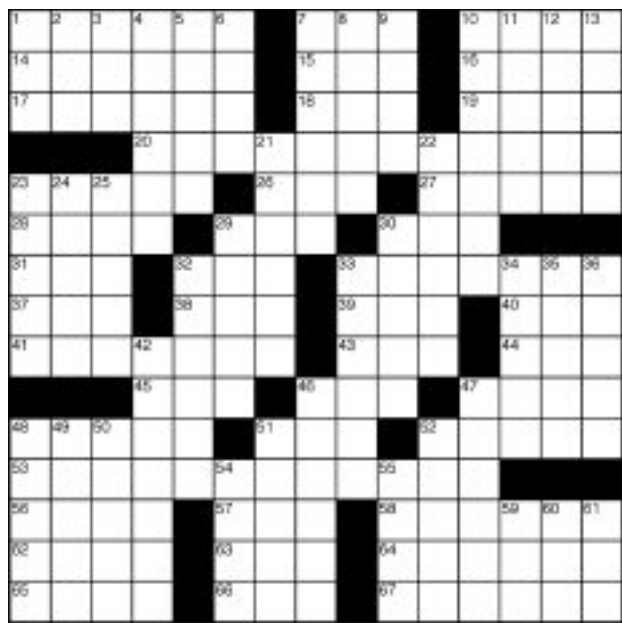
♊ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** Before starting another new endeavor, complete the ones you've already got underway. When you finally finish them, the results will exceed your expectations.

♊ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** Do not discount any new idea or concept you get, even if some of them are a bit grandiose. You're in a cycle where thinking big could be lucky for you.

♊ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** Certain of your financial transactions could start to take an upward swing. As long as you don't allow extravagance to rule the roost, profitable results are likely. **BERNICE BEDE OSOL**

Across

- 1 Raised with effort
7 24-hr. teller
10 Jargon
14 Disinclined
15 Glamorous wrap
16 Survey finding
17 Friars' garb
18 College entrance exam
19 Domino dots
20 Subtle intimidation (2 wds.)
23 Michael Caine role
26 "Have you — wool?"
27 Ticket info
28 Mrs. Charles
29 A-Team member (2 wds.)
30 Ltd. relative
31 Cosmic force
32 Brief craze
33 Tease (2 wds.)
37 — take forever!
38 When Paris sizzles
39 Off-rd. truck
40 Pub pint
41 Thick soup
43 La Brea -- pits
44 ER personnel
45 Clark or Orbison
46 Writer John -- Passos
47 A word to kitty
48 One kind of flight
51 Klutz
52 Ballpark figure
53 Rusty-looking plant (2 wds.)
56 Army status
57 Jacques' friend
58 Panoramas
62 Europe-Asia range
63 RMN and HST, once
64 Revises
65 Diamond corner
66 "Quiet!"
67 Medium-sized sofa



Down

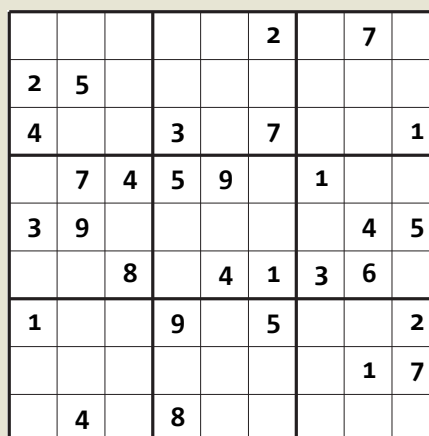
- 1 Nasty laugh
2 Role for Madonna
3 Winter mo.
4 Odd facts
5 Ms. Lauder
6 He loved Lucy
7 Not around
8 Sycophant
9 Marshal Dillon
10 Whim
11 March sign
12 Hindu kingdom
13 Kind of bud

21 Storeroom for food

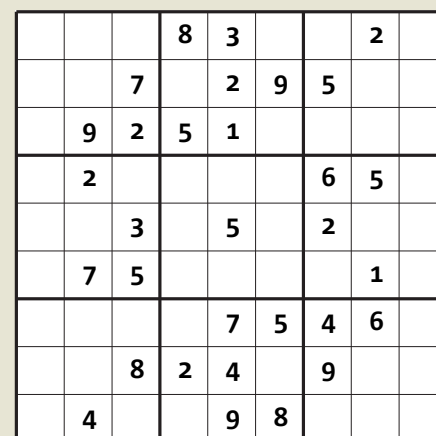
- 22 Long for
23 Funny business
24 Very reluctant
25 Bilbo's heir
29 Ahoy, —!
30 Specks
32 Bogart's topper
33 Defer (2 wds.)
34 Silly comedy
35 Humerus neighbors
36 Snug retreats
42 Crease

46 Sweet roll

- 47 Day's end
48 Cancel a launch
49 Beauty pageant prize
50 Pavlova and Freud
51 Energy
52 Soot
54 Dallas hoopsters, slangily
55 Festive nights
59 Explosive abbr.
60 Lemon cooler
61 NNW opposite



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SUDOKU LEVEL: HARD

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Dickey, Mets continue negotiations

R.A. Dickey left last week's winter meetings with no new contract — but no new team either.



The reigning NL Cy Young winner has begun negotiations with the Mets again but realizes a trade is still possible if a new deal cannot be reached.

"I'm hoping it ends up in a good place, but also in the back of your mind you think it may not," Dickey said yesterday at a charity event at Citi Field. "That's sad."

Dickey, 38, won 20 games for the Mets last season, but for a team that needs all the help it can get, a trade could be useful. The knuckleballer said he'd likely not re-sign if a deal isn't reached this offseason. ● METRO

BRAYLON'S BACK

► One week after calling management 'idiots,' Edwards is re-signed by Jets
► Receiver spent two wasted years away ► Says he is now 'going home'

PETER G. AIKEN/GETTY IMAGES

Braylon Edwards probably doesn't think Jets management are "idiots" now.

The Jets yesterday brought back the wide receiver, who perhaps never should have left. Edwards signed a contract with his old team after he was claimed on waivers.

Edwards, a former first-round pick of the Browns, was traded to the Jets in 2009 and played 28 regular-season games with the team. Edwards had his second-best professional season, with 53 catches for 904 yards and seven touchdowns with the Jets in 2010. But his contract was not renewed and he has had injury-riddled seasons in San Francisco and Seattle since. He was released by the Seahawks on Monday.

"It feels great to be going home," Edwards tweeted yesterday after the news. "I'm back and it's go time."

The deal comes just a week after Edwards took to Twitter to rip apart the team. Edwards tweeted a message of support for Mark Sanchez after the Jets benched him in the second half of their win over the Cardinals.

"Don't blame Sanchez. I



► "I've always had a great deal of admiration and respect for Braylon Edwards, as you guys know," Rex Ryan said during the week the Jets were preparing to play Seattle.

23

Receptions by Braylon Edwards in the past two seasons, while playing 19 games for the 49ers and Seahawks. He had 88 catches in 28 games with the Jets.

played there," Edwards tweeted. "Blame the idiots calling shots. Mark is a beast and will prove it when given a proper chance."

Edwards later apologized to the Jets' front office for the comments.

Head coach Rex Ryan praised Edwards on Monday, but didn't say the team was

looking to sign him.

"You guys know what I've always said about Braylon in the past, so you know how I feel about him," Ryan said. "But right now, I think we'll just focus on the guys we have."

KRISTIAN DYER
sports@metro.us

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NFL in brief

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Hill injury not as serious as feared

JETS. The Jets' banged-up receiving corps got good news late Monday when MRI results on Stephen Hill's right knee showed no significant damage.

The Jets diagnosed the rookie wideout with a sprained right LCL, the same injury Redskins star quarterback Robert Griffin III is dealing with. Like Griffin, he is listed as day-to-day. ● METRO

Saints bounty suspensions axed

SAINTS. Former NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue delivered a strong rebuke to his successor yesterday.

Tagliabue, who was brought in as an independent party to hear the appeal of several players' suspensions in the Saints' bounty controversy, struck down all bans.

Former Jets linebacker Jonathan Vilma was the most prominent player involved in the scandal to have his suspension overturned. He was suspended for the entire season. Saints defensive end Will Smith and Scott Fujita, now on the Browns, were also suspended. The coaches' suspensions remain in effect. ● METRO



Playing with the enemy

► Former Red Sox infielder Youkilis signs deal with Yankees, according to reports ► Struggled last season, traded to Chicago ► Contract worth \$12M

Kevin Youkilis has become the latest to join a club that includes Wade Boggs, Johnny Damon and Roger Clemens.

Multiple reports last night indicate Youkilis will sign a one-year deal with the Yankees, pending a physical. The deal will be worth \$12 million.

The Yankees were left in a lurch at third base when Alex Rodriguez announced he would need surgery on his hip, putting him out for four to six months. Yankees general manager Brian Cashman publicly stated at the winter

Still waiting on Ichiro

The Yankees are still waiting to hear from Ichiro Suzuki, but it appears as though the two sides are close to agreeing to a deal to bring back the future Hall of Famer.

ESPN reported yesterday



the Yankees could come to a one-year agreement by this week.

Ichiro struggled for the Mariners last season but hit .322 for the Yankees in 67 games after being acquired. ● METRO

driguez's backup for the past two seasons, signed with Arizona and Mark Reynolds and Jeff Keppinger took their talents elsewhere, the Yankees had few options.

Youkilis, 33, was a star for the Red Sox from 2004 to 2012, when his numbers slumped and he was traded to the White Sox. He has a lifetime average of .284 with a .384 on-base percentage, but batted just .235 last season.

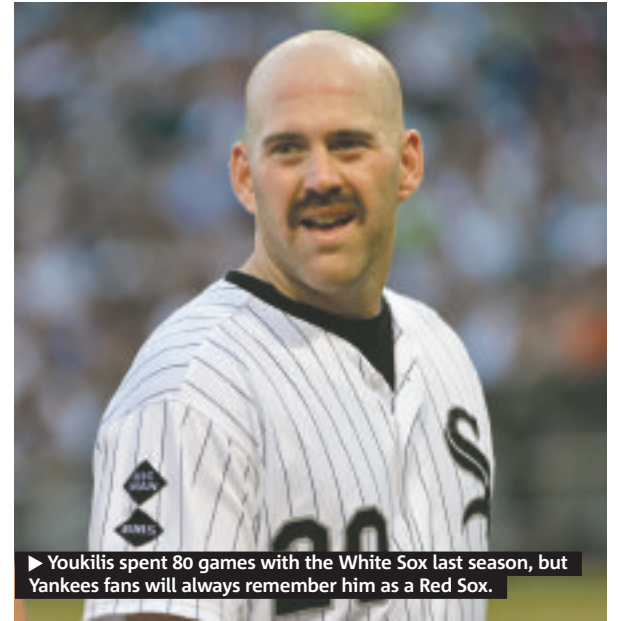


MARK OSBORNE
mark.osborne@metro.us

meetings in Nashville last week that he would not move Eduardo Nunez to third base,

meaning the team would look at the free-agent market.

But after Eric Chavez, Ro-



► Youkilis spent 80 games with the White Sox last season, but Yankees fans will always remember him as a Red Sox.

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Real Estate/Sale



PUBLISHERS NOTE
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2186 Washington Ave Open House Sat & Sun 12-4 pm, 3 fam brk renov 3/2 bds, bsmt, sep elec & gas, gar, low ch. Owner 646-431-0105, 718-740-5222

858 E. 215 St. Open House Sat & Sun 12-4 pm, brk 2 fam, 2 bths, fully renov, fin bsmt, driveway, gar, only 3% down. Owner 646-431-0105, 718-740-5222

Morris Pk 1860 Amethyst Ave. Open House Sat&Sun 12-4 pm, 2 fam det renv, 43 br, 3 bth, bsmt, new boiler, hw flrs, 3.5% dn. Owner 646-431-0105

PARKCHESTER * East 231 St. Mint Det 2 Fam Plus Fin Bsmt, Renov 2 Fam Plus Fin Bsmt, 2 Car Garage Min DP \$16,100. Owner 917-510-7005

BEDSTY JEFFERSON AVE. Beaut, lg, new 2 fam, 7 brs, 4 bths, 2 frpcls, 2 new kits w/hw appls, fin bsmt, bkvd. Owner 516-779-7649

JACKSON HEIGHTS \$290,000 2 family brick house, 33, 2 full baths, driveway, Hablamos Espanol. Please call Maybell 718-300-7057

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Real Estate/Rent

Apartments

MURRY HILL 39th St & Park Ave. Newly renov, Jr 4 rm apt. 775 SF condo, 5th flr elve bldg, 24hr drmn, \$3200.mo. Call owner 917-855-6570

Bainbridge/All Bronx * 1 Br fr. \$850 * 2 Br's fr. \$1050 * 3 Br's, fr. \$1200. Also no credit ck appts. avail. MAZIE'S RE 718-293-4555

BEDFORD PK * Moshulu Pkwy So. Nr. Park, Garden, Zoo Trans. Studio \$850, 2Br \$1350. Well Maintd Bldg 1st mo rent free! Agt 718-657-1085

FORDHAM* SEDGWICK AVE Well maintained rent stabilized bldg. 1BR \$950. 1st mo rent free. No Appt. necessary. Call Agent 718-657-1085

HUNTS POINT off Garrison Ave Well maintained rent stabilized bldg 1st mo rent free 2br \$1,115/mo. 3 br \$1,274/mo. Agt. 718-657-1085

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EAST FLATBUSH (E. 26th St.) Newly Renov 1 BR Apt., Hwd Flrs. Pay own utilities. \$750/mo + 1 mo sec., Crdt Ck. Owner 718-200-8424

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ENY- Linden off Rogers. Near shops, trans, 1br \$975, 2br \$1395. Well maintained rent stabilized bldg 1st mo Rent Free. Call Agent 718-657-1085

ENY- Pennsylvania Ave. Btw. Interboro Pkwy & Atlantic. Well maintd, rent stabl. bldg. Nr trans. 2br \$1225. 1st 1/2 mo rent free. Agt 718-657-1085

FLATBUSH EAST 17th off Beverly Rd. Well Maintained Rent Stabilized Bldg. 1 Br \$1275/mo. 1st mo rent free. Agt 718-657-1085

Snyder Ave/E. 31st St * Renov 3 BR, L/R/EIK, Bkvd Access, Nr Sovy \$1650 Union SVE. NY Ave * 2 BR, Gas Incl, Nr Park/Sovy, \$1400 Bkr 718-498-3200

FLUSHING 158th St. Fully Renov 1 Bdm Apt on 1st Flr in Walk-up bldg. \$1150/mo. Principals Only. Owner 718-358-3564 / 718-675-9800

JAMAICA: HILLSIDE AVE 1 BR \$1195; 2BR \$1375. Hwd flr, renov kit. Rent stabilized garden camp, laundry facility. 1st 1/2 mo rent free Agt 718-657-1085

Kew Gardens: Lge 2 bdr, 1 bath, Fully renovated, 7 min walk to trains E & F. \$1600/month. No pets. Parking space available. Owner (718)644-3246.

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Miscellaneous

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*ROSEDALE * Fum'd Room avail. Cable/TV incl'd, share Kit/Bath, very clean. \$185/wk, 2 wks sec + 1 wk rent. Owner 718-949-7031 / 646-379-4015

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Legal Notices

NOTICE OF FORMATION
of 5:15 Huntting Ave, LLC.

Art. Of Org. filed with Secy.
Of State of NY (SSNY)
on November 2, 2012.
Office location: New York
County. SSNY designated
as agent of LLC upon
whom process against
it may be served. SSNY
shall mail process to:
The LLC, 122 East 42nd Street,
Suite 1507, New York, NY 10168.
Purpose: Any lawful activity

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
that a license, Number TBA for
Liquor has been applied for by
the undersigned to sell Liquor,
Wine & Beer in a restaurant
at retail under the Alcoholic
Beverage Control Law at:
140 Court Street, Brooklyn,
NY 11201, for on premise
consumption. Chipotle Mexican
Grill of Colorado LLC.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
that a license, Number TBA for
Liquor has been applied for by
the undersigned to sell Liquor,
Wine & Beer in a restaurant
at retail under the Alcoholic
Beverage Control Law at:
70-30 Austin Street,
Forest Hills, NY 11375, for on
premise consumption. Chipotle
Mexican Grill of Colorado LLC.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
that a license, Number TBA for
Liquor has been applied for by
the undersigned to sell Liquor,
Wine & Beer in a restaurant
at retail under the Alcoholic
Beverage Control Law at:
57-19 Northern Blvd.
Woodside, NY 11377, for on
premise consumption.
A. C. P. Bar Corp.

Legal Notices

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
that a license, Number Pending
for Beer & Wine has been
applied for by the undersigned
to sell Beer & Wine at retail
in a Restaurant under the
Alcoholic Beverage Control
Law at: 15 Mott Street, New
York, NY 10013 for on-premises
consumption. Wo Hop City, Inc.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
that a license, Number 1267638
for Beer & Wine has been
applied for by the undersigned
to sell Wine & Beer at retail in a
restaurant under the Alcoholic
Beverage Control Law at:
4404 Broadway, Astoria,
NY 11103, for on-premises
consumption. Safres Corp.

NOTICE OF FORMATION
OF HOLDING SPACE, LLC.
Art. of Org. filed with
the Secy. of State of
New York (SSNY) on
October 30th, 2012.
Office location: New
York County. SSNY
designated as agent
of LLC upon whom
process against it may
be served. SSNY shall
mail process to: 49 West
24th St, 8th Floor New
York, NY 10010 Purpose,
any lawful activity

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
that a license, Number
1267343 for Wine & Beer
has been applied for by the
undersigned to sell Liquor,
Wine & Beer at retail in a
restaurant under the Alcoholic
Beverage Control Law at:
5210 7th Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11219,
for on-premises consumption.
AA Yang Restaurant Inc.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
that a license, serial # 1266574,
for Liquor, Wine & Beer has been
applied for by the undersigned
to sell Liquor, Wine & Beer at
retail in a karaoke bar under the
Alcoholic Beverage Control Law
at 41-13 149th Place, Flushing,
NY 11355, for on premise
consumption. Sky Plus Inc.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN,
PURSUANT TO LAW,
that the NYC Department
of Consumer Affairs will
hold a Public Hearing on
Wednesday, December
19, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. at
66 John Street, 11th floor, on
a petition from Los Pollos
Ill, Inc. to continue to,
to maintain, and operate an
unenclosed sidewalk café
at 499 Myrtle Avenue, in the
Borough of Brooklyn for a
term of two years.

REQUESTS FOR COPIES OF THE
PROPOSED REVOCABLE CONSENT
AGREEMENT MAY BE ADDRESSED
TO: DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER
AFFAIRS, ATTN: FOIL OFFICER,
42 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, NY 10004

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
that a license, serial # 1266515,
for Wine & Beer has been
applied for by the undersigned
to sell Wine & Beer at retail in
a restaurant under the Alcoholic
Beverage Control Law at
975 Morris Park Ave., Bronx,
NY 10462, for on premise
consumption. Golden Eagle
Restaurant Inc.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
that a license, serial # 1266720,
for Wine & Beer has been
applied for by the undersigned
to sell Wine & Beer at retail in a
restaurant under the Alcoholic
Beverage Control Law at 1164
1st Ave., New York, NY 110065,
for on premise consumption.
Ayama Fusion Cuisine Inc.
d/b/a I Ayama Japanese Fusion
Cuisine.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
that a license, Number 1267519
for Beer & Wine has been
applied for by the undersigned
to sell Beer & Wine at retail in a
restaurant under the Alcoholic
Beverage Control Law at:
733 Knickerbocker Avenue,
Brooklyn, NY 11221, for on
premise consumption. Bombay
Kitchen Indian Restaurant Inc.

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Make your own holiday magic

► Lifestyle expert Danny Seo shows us how to create cost-effective, eco-friendly and supercute decorations out of everyday items ► You don't need art skills to make any of these good-for-the-Earth projects

DIY



Altoids tin gift card cases

Forget envelopes: Save some trees and use your empty Altoids tins when giving gift cards to your loved ones.

HOW-TO: You don't have to cover the outside of the tin with decorative paper, but if you don't, you are simply reusing an Altoids tin and not upcycling it. If aesthetics matter to you, it's easy to do: Spread craft glue on the top of the Altoids tin and lay it flat on a piece of pretty paper. Press it firmly in place and then use an X-Acto knife to trim off the excess along the edges for a clean finish. Do the same along the edges of the tin. Paint a thin layer of glue around the edges and sprinkle with glitter, place a gift card inside and tie it all up with a ribbon.

Forget spending a ton of money on fancy wrapping paper, ribbons and boxes. "It's the silliest thing in the world; you know someone's just going to tear it up and throw it away," says green lifestyle expert and crafter Danny Seo. But don't get him wrong — Seo believes in gorgeous presentation. "I just think there are so many things that you can use that you already have to wrap presents and make them look really pretty." In his new book, "Upcycling Celebrations," the "Today" show contributor creates more than 100 ingenious holiday-themed projects out of stuff that's lying around (think: cheery garlands from packing peanuts). We got him to teach us a few projects from his book. Start raiding your cabinets now.

Why are homemade decorations more special?

When someone asks, "Oh, where did you get these trimmers?" the last thing you want to say is Pottery Barn. You want to have a story, like, "Oh, when I was 8 years old I made these with my mother; we've had



PHOTOS: LAURA MOSS

them generation to generation." So what I was trying to do with this book was to take the idea of making things by hand and make it easy for people who truly don't have a lot of skill.

What's a good starter project?

During the holidays, everybody gives out gift cards; it's an easy gift, but it's hard to wrap. What I do is I save Altoids tins and cover it in a really pretty paper. [see directions to the left]. Once it's done, throw some peppermint candies inside, place the gift card on top, tie it with a ribbon and you're done.

How do you plan to decorate your home for the holidays?

I'm making a big newspaper wreath this year. You cut six or seven squares of newspaper out and then you put the squares onto a wreath frame — which are like \$2 at a craft store. Then you zip-tie that bunch of newspaper onto the frame and take your hands and scrunch it; they become these newspaper rosettes. Once you do the whole thing, you can create a giant wreath using newspapers you already have, and the only tools you need are a wreath frame, zip ties and scissors.

'Happy Holidays' banner

Make your own quirky holiday banner to greet your guests and spruce up a blank space.

HOW-TO: Cut thick office-supply paper (like cardstock) into circles. With a hot-glue gun, attach dried-out pens, markers and broken pencils to the front of each circle to spell out a letter. Repeat until your phrase is completed. Use a hole punch to make two holes at the top of each circle, and run yarn or string through it to make the garland.



Hot air balloon decorations

Put your old lightbulbs to use and make these adorable hot-air balloon ornaments.

HOW-TO: Cut tissue paper into small strips that will cover the outside of the bulb, from the base of the socket to the top of the bulb. Cover the whole bulb in Mod Podge glue and attach the tissue paper on top. Wait for it to dry slightly (about 10 minutes; do other bulbs as you wait) and then apply a thin layer of more Mod Podge on top to seal it in. To get the striped appearance, use strips of identical tissue paper and attach them one at a time, alternating colors. Allow to dry completely. Tie two pieces of string around the socket tightly, and bring them up along the sides of the bulb and knot at the top. Leave excess so you have enough string to loop around the tree to hang it. Twist a champagne metal cage around the bottom to make the "basket" for the balloon.



► Floral designer Michael Gaffney says it's all about practice when it comes to creating your own centerpieces at home.



Stay clear of traditional flowers like poinsettias this holiday season.

All eyes on the table

- Don't even think about reaching for those poinsettias
- How to deck your tablescapes this holiday season

We all want that perfect centerpiece to set the scene when we're entertaining during the holidays, but how can you wow guests without dropping major cash at the fancy florist? Floral designer and founder of American Schools of Flower Design, Michael Gaffney, gives us a crash course.

Get inspired

"Page through magazines looking for a style you like. 'Copy, copy, copy' is my motto. Arrangements in magazines are by designers who know the looks; those are the looks that everybody admires. Sometimes if you just pick it apart, you'll figure it out."

The vessel is key

"Avoid wicker baskets — in other words, choose the right container. Go out on a limb and use something modern, such as concrete or metal."

Think beyond poinsettia

"Use flowers that you normally don't see. It doesn't have to be poinsettias and white mums, it can be hydrangeas, kale or white stock — which is actually a spring flower, but with pine and cedar it looks beautiful. Use lots of branches — not only the pines and cedars, but dark woods and curly willows



► Use nontraditional flowers like hydrangeas in your holiday centerpiece this year.

can be incorporated into really modern arrangements."

Easy tricks

"Take lots of one type of flower and collar it with different materials. Take four bunches of white stock and collar with magnolia leaves, then collar it with another material like pine — very chic, very high-end looking. I also like ornaments where you stick a [branch] in it and you use them as flowers in your design."

Preserving your work

"Designers put bleach in the water. A couple of drops of bleach in an average size vase stops the bacteria from destroying the drinking mechanisms.

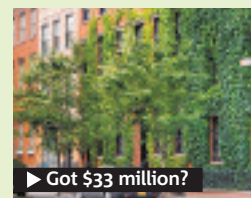
Also, submerge your flowers underwater for a half hour to 45 minutes — they'll hydrate through the surface. Use a product called Crowning Glory, which is a wax sealant that keeps them from dehydrating. If you don't have that, just spray them with water daily. Flowers are all about water."

Source the best blooms

"Start knowing your source, whether it's your grocery store, florist or wholesale market. When you feel flowers, they should feel almost plastic — which means they're just plump with water."

OLIVIA MORROW
letters@metro.us

Market watch



CHEAPEST: \$189K

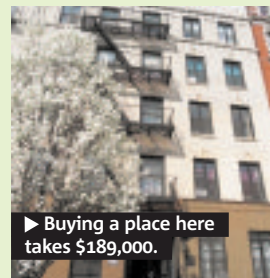
11 Saint Nicholas Ave.

The cheapest apartment listed this week is a co-op at 11 Saint Nicholas Ave. This pre-war studio off Central Park North, with income restrictions on potential buyers, is listed by Willie Kathryn Suggs for \$189,000.

PRICIEST: \$33M

755 Greenwich St.

The most expensive property listed this week is a compound of three townhouses at 755 Greenwich St. This 10,202-square-foot space with room for office, living and guest space is listed by Brown Harris Stevens for \$33M.



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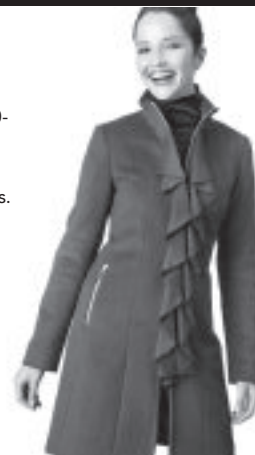
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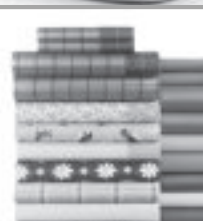
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